

## SB17-062: Protest Ban from Koch network, disguised as “Campus Free Speech”

In the past month, state lawmakers in [CO](#), [NC](#), [VA](#), [TN](#), [ND](#), [UT](#), [IL](#), and [WI](#) have filed a “campus free speech” bill in some form, based on [model legislation](#) from Koch network think tanks.

These bills make it illegal for students to protest in a way that “disrupts” the speech of anyone who has been invited onto campus, and bars administrators from disinviting any speaker that can reserve space or be invited.

The model legislation, referred to by supporters as “Milo’s Bill,” was released on the morning that Milo Yiannopoulos was scheduled to speak at UC Berkeley. The sponsor of his talk, (the **Horowitz’s Freedom Center**, shares considerable funders with the groups who drafted Milo’s bill; the **Goldwater Institute** and the **Ethics and Public Policy Center (EPPC)**).

	Donations 2004-2015				
		DonorsTrust/ Donors Capital Fund	Bradley Foundation	Koch Family Foundation	State Policy Network
Drafted “Milo’s Bill”	<b>Goldwater</b>	\$2,574,112	\$25,000	\$75,000	\$149,349
	<b>EPPC</b>	\$888,000	\$7,964,210	\$199,124 (since 1997)	
Sponsored Milo’s Berkeley Talk	<b>Freedom Center</b>	\$634,000	\$8,438,000		

Though not part of the original, late [amendments](#) to Colorado’s [SB17-062](#) leave it in conformity with the model bill:

- **“Members of the College or University Community” is defined to include** “students, faculty, and staff an an institution, and **any invited guests,”**
- **all mentions of “Students’ rights” have been replaced** with “Members of the College or University Community.”
- Inserts **“Nothing in this section grants other Members of the College or University Community the right to disrupt previously scheduled or reserved activities** in that portion or section of the public forum at that scheduled time.
- **Parties who “may bring action in a court”** now include “a **Member of the College or University Community** whose right to speech was violated.

Like a *campus version of the Citizens United* ruling, these bills bend free speech to favor corporate funded speech (campus speakers sponsored by outside groups, or corporate funded student groups), yet go a step further and punish those who would interrupt a speaker or meeting.

This would prohibit protected expressive acts, such as a chant or a song that was construed as interrupting any speaker that can get invited to campus. The bill would unconstitutionally prohibit protect speech of protestors, open campuses to considerable litigation from student and outside organizations, and increase the policing on overly-militarized, overly-policed campuses.

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